





DEDICATION

This is only a partial record of the Farm Organizations and of the pioneer years of this community. It would take a far larger book than this to do justice to these gallant people who, as one newspaper man once said "stuck to this country through thick and thin - through good times that were still plenty tough, and bad times that were awful".

It is to those people that this booklet is dedicated.



March 1967 F.W.U.A. meeting to plan for the
Centennial Project - The celebration of
50 Golden Years.

Author - Mrs. Fran Fraser





Families going to the U.F.A. picnic at the Bow River in 1912



Mr. W. Durston, marshal
at U.F.A. picnic, 1912



U.F.W.A. meeting at the Glambeck home, 1919



U.F.W.A. meeting at the home of
Mr. and Mrs. John Glambeck, 1921



Girls at U.F.A. picnic at
the Bow River in 1912



U.F.W.A. meeting at Stumpf's,
1932



U.F.W.A. meeting at Hulberts
in 1930's



Mr. and Mrs. Archie Alston



Miss Maude Davidson
Public Health Nurse



Birthday party: Mrs. M. Monner
and Mrs. L. Sutherland



U.F.W.A. meeting at
Cluny in 1940's



Four past
presidents



F.W.U.A. members dressed
in saris at lecture on
India by missionary
1956

Float at Race Meet
June, 1964



CENTENNIAL PROJECT: HISTORY OF MILO-QUEENSTOWN U.F.W.A. & F.W.U.A.

Since the history of any organization is also the history of the community of which it is a part, we must begin our story some years earlier than the time the Farm Organization came into being.

The Milo-Queenstown community began when the first settlers came into the district. This was in 1888, but the Snake Valley had a long and colorful history before the white man ever saw it.

For many centuries it was a hunting ground for the Snake Indians; in fact this is how the valley got its name. The Snake Indians were in the course of time, dispossessed by the Crow tribe, who in turn were eventually driven out by the Blackfoot Confederacy. Long and bloody battles were waged over and around this fertile valley, which the Indians considered the finest of hunting grounds, and the legendry and tradition of the Blackfoot people are filled with colourful tales about the area and some of the animals and people who inhabited it.

None of the people were more colorful than Captian Dawson. He was an Irish surveyor, working for the Dominion Government, who had come into the country when the Canadian Pacific Railway was being built, by all accounts, Captain Dawson was more than a bit eccentric. He most certainly possessed more than his share of enthusiasm, to which he gave full reign in organizing in 1887, a ranching and colonization company to settle the Snake Valley.

In those days, British capital was easy to raise for schemes in the New World, and quite a bit of it was invested in the Canadian Pacific Colonization Company. Old Country papers ran glowing and spectacular stories of the opportunity awaiting those who were foresighted enough to avail themselves of this chance to emigrate to a wonderful future in Southern Alberta.

In 1888. Captain Dawson, with a crew of workmen and single colonists arrived in the Snake Valley, and named the site of his future colony "Queenstown", after his birthplace in Ireland.

In 1889 the first of the settlers arrived in Gleichen on July 16. These were Mr. William Brown of Kilcardineshire Scotland, and his family of ten. They found conditions much different from the glorious picture painted by Captain Dawson's propaganda, but in due time a house was built on the property afterwards known as the Arbuthnot ranch, named after the home of the Brown Family in Scotland.

The first years were difficult ones. The first summer the supply of hay and feed were destroyed by a prairie fire. The winter of 1889 was very severe, and the cattle belonging to the Company were nearly all lost by spring. These losses forced the Colonization Company into bankruptcy. The following year the Conrad Brothers of Montana, owners of the Famous "Circle" brand took over the colony. At one time they

ran 30,000 head of cattle between the Bow River and Macleod. The manager of the Circle's operations in Alberta was a man by the name of Howell Harris. Foreman on the Buffalo Hills ranch was Mr. Calhoun, who was known to the Indians as "So-Ki'tsi" ... "Big Belly". Round-up foreman was "Baldy" Buck, who also handled the big dip. when the cattle were dipped for mange.

Between 1889 and 1908, the homesteads in the district were taken up, and post offices established in various places. The Milo post-office was named after Milo Munroe, the first postmaster.

Schools began to be built throughout the district, and in 1909 the railroad was surveyed, and the Canada Land and Irrigation Company project, which eventually became Lake MacGregor and its related canal system, was begun.

During these years too the first formation took place of the organizations which later grew into the great farm unions and co-operatives.

In 1905 two farmer's associations were organized, the Canadian Society of Equity, and the Alberta Farmer's Association. In 1906 amalgamation of the two bodies was discussed, but nothing was done about it. In 1906, however, the United Grain Growers co-operative was organized, in the hope of getting a better deal for the farmers in Grain marketing.

In 1909 the Canadian Society of Equity and the Alberta Farmer's Association were amalgamated under the name of the United Farmers of Alberta.

In 1910 the Milo-Queenstown local of the United Farmers of Alberta was organized with a large membership. The first president was George Macomber, while the first secretary was Glambeck. The interest of these two gentlemen in the farm organizations continued for the rest of their lives.

During the United Farmers of Alberta convention of 1913, the U.F.A. Constitution was amended to admit women to the organization. Many women took advantage of this provision, and joined the different U.F.A. locals.

The next year, the U.F.A. secretary, Mr. Woodbridge, sent an invitation to all farm women, whether they were members of the U.F.A., the Women's Institute, or no organization at all, to meet in Edmonton at the time of the annual U.F.A. Convention, in order to discuss the formation of a provincial organization similar to the Women's Auxiliary to the Grain Growers Association of Saskatchewan, which had been organized the previous year.

The meeting was held in MacDougall Church, and there were fifty-eight women present. After a lively discussion, it was decided to

organize a women's branch, an auxiliary to the U.F.A., and to elect provincial officers, a provisional slate, to serve during the steps which were necessary to make the new organization legal. The U.F.A. gave the new organization a grant of \$100.00 for the work of building a provincial auxiliary. To quote from Mrs. Eva Carter's "Thirty years of progress" published in 1944: "The doubts and fears, labour and sacrifice experienced during those first difficult years hold a special place in the hearts of rural women. The faith of this group in collective effort as a means to a desirable end never wavered".

At the end of the first year there were twenty-three locals organized in various parts of the province, with a membership of over seven hundred.

Right from the start, and all down through the years the Department of Extension, University of Alberta, has been of the greatest value to our organization. Their interest and co-operation in providing guidance and program material has a value which cannot be over-estimated.

In 1915, with women everywhere busy with war-work, an organization campaign was carried out throughout the province. Many more locals were organized that year.

In 1916 the first convenorships were established in the effort to keep farm people informed on all matters of interest to them. This year also marked a forward step in the history of the Women's organization, when the Auxiliary, which was what it had been up till that time, was officially recognized by the U.F.A. Plans were then completed for the organization of a provincial body, to be known as the United Farm Women of Alberta.

This did not come about as a natural evolution. It required a good deal of patient arguing and insisting on the part of the Auxiliary before the U.F.A. was willing to accept the women's branch as an integral part of the organization with equal rights and responsibilities.

The first convenorships in 1916 included Health, Education and young people's work... thus setting patterns of interests that have continued through the years.

This year too, saw the first committee established to review laws relating to and affecting the civil and property rights of women.... a concern which has never slackened.

The Milo-Queenstown local of the U.F.W.A. was organized in 1917. "Votes for Women" was a red-hot issue, and the members enthusiastically took their places in the struggle, and rejoiced when their object was attained that same year.

Members of the Local and its executives during the early years included Mrs. Joe McCabe, Mrs. Ruth Beckner, Mrs. W. Durston, Mrs. George Macomber, Mrs. John Glambeck, Mrs. James Burk, Mrs. Ernest Burk, Mrs. Olaf O'Tott, Mrs. Archie Alston, Jessie Burk, Mrs. Myrtle Monner, Mrs. Eva Hulbert, Mrs. William Francis, and many others.

Right from the beginning, the United Farm organizations took a prominent part in the promotion of schemes for the betterment of economic and social conditions in the community, as well as in the larger affairs of the Province and Dominion. Among other things, co-operatives were coming into being. One was organized to bring in lumber and building supplies for the benefit of farmers in the area, many of whom were engaged in building fine homes to replace the former sod houses. This co-operative also supplied the lumber etc., for the biggest project of the local U.F.A. at that time.

That was the construction of the U.F.A. Hall, generally known as "The Milo Hall." Lumber and other supplies were hauled from Cluny, and the hall was built with volunteer labour from the community. There was some criticism of the organization building the hall in war-time, but it was not long before it had proved its worth.

The hall was built in the spring and summer of 1918. In November the Asiatic Flu hit Milo district in its full devastating force. So many families were stricken, and in some cases every member was helplessly in bed, with no one member able to help another. Finally the situation became so grim that the new hall opened, not to gay strains of music and the happy sounds of social affairs, but as a hospital.

On November 20th, the schools throughout the area were closed, and most of the teachers moved into the hall to act as nurses. Cots were set up on the dance floor. The cloak rooms were used as dormitories for nurses. Young men from the surrounding district acted as orderlies, and drivers for the nurses as they went around the district caring for those who needed attention, but still wished to remain at home. Food for the hospital was donated by residents of the community. Men (and some women) with cars went around and collected it, while the hospital's linens - loaned by neighbors - were gathered up daily, washed and returned ready for use.

In 1919 the Flu broke out again. This time the hall was again turned into a hospital, and better organized. Mrs. Louise Bertrand, a member of the U.F.W.A. acted as cook, the teachers and other girls of the neighborhood served as nurses, Oscar Hanson acted as orderly and assistant, while the other young men helped in any way they could, as orderlies, drivers, and choremen for farmers sick with the flu.

The flu devastated communities everywhere, but few, if any, met the emergency with the same organized community effort that Milo district did.

1919 also saw the formation of the first Junior U.F.A. branch. It was formed at the convention of 1919, with Mrs. Gunn as convenor. That same year, a local was formed in the Milo-Queenstown area. The "Juniors" were to be a real and lively factor in the district from that time for many, many years. Members of that first Junior local included Eric Shore, Jessie Burk, Frank Durston, Ellen and Carl Glambeck, and many others. They were a very active group. Mr. Frank Harvey organized gymnastics and sports for boys, while Mrs. Archie Alston, a steady and valued friend of the Juniors throughout the years, taught physical culture and dancing to the girls. The Farm Young People's Weeks which have provided a glimpse of a wider world for so many farm young people were begun at this time.

"The twenties" were a period of relative prosperity. In 1921 we saw the entry of the United Farmers of Alberta into the political field.

It was decided to take political action in the hope of electing a few men to the Dominion and Provincial governments who might be able to influence the course of legislature for the betterment of the farmers. In the election of that year the U.F.A. government came into power in the Provincial field, while the members elected to the government in Ottawa became the famous "Ginger Group" in the House of commons, who initiated so much of the most progressive legislation of the century.

The U.F.W.A. gained a further honour in this election when their provincial president, Mrs. Irene Parlby, was elected to the Alberta Legislature, and subsequently appointed Minister Without Portfolio... the first woman Cabinet Minister in the British Empire.

One of the outstanding accomplishments of the "Ginger Group" was in promoting the retention of the Crow's Nest Pass agreement, which the Canadian Pacific Railway had attempted to have set aside.

The U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. Locals worked busily for the election of our local members... E.J. Garland federally, and O.L. (Tony) MacPherson provincially.

No history of any part of the farm movement would be complete without mention of Henry Wise Wood, who was the inspiration and moving spirit behind everything conceived for the betterment of the farm people.

The most outstanding piece of this work was the organization of the Alberta Wheat Pool. The years 1923 and 1924 saw the foundation of this great grain marketing system. At first Pool wheat was delivered to the United Grain Growers or to the Alberta Pacific elevators, but in 1927 they bought the Lake of the Woods Elevator in Milo, then built their own in 1928.

The present town of Milo was started in 1924 with the coming of the

railroad, which arrived in Milo on December 11th, 1924. The railroad was built north from Lomond, and when the steel reached Arrowood, it was the occasion for a great celebration. Women from all over the community took lunches and went to Arrowood on the train for the day.

All through the decade of the twenties the U.F.A., the U.F.W.A. and the Juniors worked actively and tirelessly for the welfare of the farm people and the community in general.

Health services, in a community so far from doctors and hospitals, were a major concern. Many patient hours of hard work were done in hopes of establishing a visiting Nurse service. It was during this period of time that the nursing service finally was established under the capable supervision of Miss Katherine Brighty, who was supervisor of provincial Nursing Service. The first nurses in the district were Miss Larson and Miss Watherston. Then in 1929, the Municipality of Marquis built a small house for the Visiting Nurse in Milo, and Miss Maude Davidson came to the district, she was to serve loyally and well for the following years.

It was the active work of the U.F.W.A., too, which caused the Health Department, established in 1918, to send out the travelling dentists, also the travelling eye, ear, nose and throat clinics, which took care of the needs of the rural population in this respect.

Five distinguished Alberta women, one of them the United Farm Women's own Mrs. Irene Parlby led the fight to gain the right for women to be considered persons in the eyes of the law....a right which opened the way for women to be appointed to the Senate, and for many other benefits to them.

It was also in 1928 that the first edition of the Farm Women's cook book was compiled. This cook book grew into a hardy perennial which has gone through many editions since, and is as popular today as it was in the beginning.

On October 18th, 1929, "Black Friday", the Stock Market collapsed, and began the Great Depression, and the grim decade of the "Dirty Thirties".

No one who lived through those years can ever forget them. Coinciding with the depression, which was world-wide, western Canada had a cycle of dry years. The drouth, which caused years of crop failures, brought about the dust-bowl conditions, adding so much to the miseries of farm wives already burdened with the neccessity of keeping a house and family on an income that became smaller and smaller. In 1933, the grain crops had to be threshed in the spring, an early winter having set in the fall before, and wheat was nineteen cents per bushel for No.1 hard. Prime steers were \$11.00 apiece, eggs were two or three cents a dozen.

In August 1932, the Milo District U.F.A. Co-operative Association Ltd. started in a small building in Milo with a new capital of \$25.00. Due to sound principles of merchandising, the competent management of Eric Shore, the Co-op was an outstanding success. It eventually reached a turnover of \$22,000.00 annually. The co-op also shipped in car-load lots of apples, salt, flour, posts, and other commodities for the benefit of farmer-members.

As the Co-op grew and moved into more commodious premises, it became a source of employment to the young people of the community. More than that, the Youth Training Schools which were of so much benefit to the young people of the depression era were sponsored in part by the Co-op, as well as the other farm organizations.

Grim as the Depression years were, the people of the district managed to provide excellent entertainment for themselves and each other. Those who possessed musical talent made full use of it, while plays, pageants and concerts were presented frequently. Picnics at the river and camping trips to the mountains provided a much-needed relief from the terrible dust, and the heartbreak of seeing hopes for crops come to nothing.

These were the years of the Chautaugua, too. The Chautaugua, of course, is well remembered. The annual visits of this best of all organized entertainment to the community were eagerly looked forward to, but during the thirties, the guarantee demanded by the backers of the Chautaugua became more than the community could manage. One of the members of the U.F.W.A. Mrs. Steve Williams suggested that instead of letting all this money go out of the district, the community should put on their own Chautaugua, and so they did. Sponsored by the Queenstown, Milo, and Arrowwood Junior Locals, each school, and groups from each town in the area "got up" some portion of the program. The resulting plays and concerts were presented at Queenstown and Milo - three days and five performances at each place. For this wealth and variety of entertainment the "season ticket" good for all ten performances was \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children. Individual performances cost 30¢ for adults and 15¢ for children.

In the election of 1935 the U.F.A. government was defeated, and in the following year, 1936, the United Farmers of Alberta withdrew from the political field.

As the decade of the thirties progressed, times became harder and harder. The great dust storms swept over the country, destroying what ever green plants had been left by the drouth. In these years many families left, driven out by hardship, moving on to greener fields, but more rode out the rough times, grimly hoping that "next year" would be better. The stories of stratagems employed to provide food and clothing... especially clothing, together with entertainment and transportation, are many and colourful. These were the years of the

Bennett Buggy, the Beef Rings were in full swing, while the lowly flour sack many times were a godsend to mothers hard-pressed to find material for clothing their families.

In 1939 the Great Depression came to an end, but 1939 also saw the outbreak of World War 2.

With the outbreak of war, the U.F.A. and the U.F.W.A. made the war effort their prime concern. The Juniors, of course disappeared with the boys and many of the girls in the services. The Farm women knitted and sewed for the Red Cross, wrote letters to the boys overseas, sent parcels to Servicemen and prisoners-of war, raised money for cigarettes and comfort funds. They donated to funds for Bundles for Britain and Jam for Britain. They held farewell parties for departing servicemen, and showers and welcoming parties for war-brides. In addition to this, farm labour had disappeared, and its place was taken by the wives and the daughters of farmers.

Funds were raised in many and varied ways. The U.F.W.A. put on chicken suppers, and card parties, they held raffles and sales of produce. They held sales of plants and seeds and raised sizable sums of money by catering for the lunches at auction sales.

In addition to the money, time and work donated to the war effort, those years, as in all the years the U.F.W.A. has been in existence, no worthy charitable cause, whether locally or one of the efforts sponsored by the central organization, has gone without a generous donation from the women of the Milo-Queenstown local.

With the end of the war, the Farm Women, after welcoming the Servicemen and women home again, returned to matters more directly concerned with the farm organization.

These years found two farm organizations again operating in Alberta both with much the same aims and objectives. In 1949, after discussions at great length, it was decided to amalgamate the two organizations under the name of the "Farmers Union of Alberta". The name "Farm Women's Union of Alberta" was adopted by the women's branch of the new organization.

The amalgamation of the two groups began a new era in the work of the Farmer's Organizations.

During the decade from 1950 to 1960 the provincial organization was a very live and active force. The F.U.A. concerned itself with grain prices and marketing, crop insurance, marketing of livestock, price supports, and marketing of livestock, farm credit, regulations dealing with farm vehicles and machinery, insurance, income tax, and many other items of vital concern to farm people. The Women's division at the same time, while just as interested in these matters as were the men, concerned themselves with health, with the whole field of welfare

education, property laws, and laws relating to women and children, and farm economics and management.

On the local scene the Milo-Queenstown F.W.U.A. continued to be a beneficial force in the community. They supported all the projects of the central organization, raising and contributing money to the construction of the head office, and building the Gold Eye Lake Camp. They also lent their encouragement and financial support to the Associated Country Women of the World, and other organizations with which the F.W.U.A. is affiliated. In addition to this, they adopted and sent regular contributions and gifts to a Korean refugee orphan, helped with the furnishing of the Oddfellow's Hall kitchen, and held the usual showers, teas, and social events. In addition to the Local's own "Sunshine Fund" which supplied flowers and comforts for members in time of need, the F.W.U.A. was part of the Milo-Queenstown Welfare Committee. They supported it financially, and sent a representative to the board.

The Milo-Queenstown local has been a valued part of the provincial organization, as well as of their own community. Since the Farm Young People's Week was originated in 1919, this local has sent one or more young people to it each year - an unbroken record of representation for forty-eight years.

It has also been continuously represented at the annual conventions. The district and sub-district conferences too, have never lacked support from the Milo-Queenstown women.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Milo-Queenstown Farm Women's Local finds the organization still active in the work of the community and province, still vitally interested in everything that has any bearing on the welfare, whether it be material, spiritual or cultural of rural people. It is to be hoped that the work will continue as well far into the future.

Our booklet would not be complete without the mention of our executive and members.

The 1966 - 1967 executive was made up of:

President - Mrs. Elsie Vooy's
Vice President - Mrs. Audrey Thompson
Secretary - Treasurer - Mrs. Margarite Godkin
Directors - Mrs. Sara Dew, Mrs. Mabel Monner,
Mrs. Janetta Northcott, Mrs. Laura Sutherland,
Mrs. Bette Papp.

Members attending meetings were:

Mrs. Myrtle Monner, Mrs. Laura Sutherland, Mrs. Jessie Umschëid, Mrs. May Bertrand, Mrs. Freda Prentice, Mrs. Tilly Heather, Mrs. Marian Henry, Mrs. Marilyn Henry, Mrs. Marina Vannatta, Mrs. Thora Scott, Mrs. Velma Wellman, Mrs. Nellie Burk, Mrs. Bette Papp, Mrs. Audrey Thompson, Mrs. Sarah Dew, Mrs. Margarite Godkin, Mrs. Elsie Vooy's, Mrs. Janetta Northcott, Mrs. Ione Vooy's, Mrs. Viola Williams, Mrs. Bea Osler.

A special thanks goes out to our charter member Mrs. Jessie Umschëid for the wealth of material which she has collected to help us in the celebration of our 50th Anniversary and to all those who contributed and supplied this material.

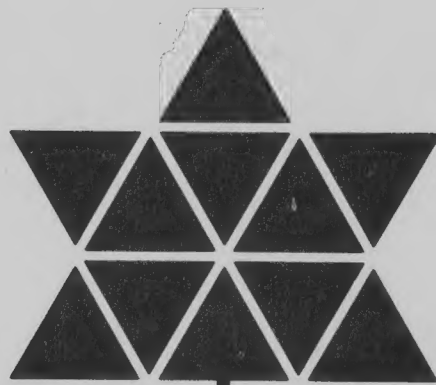
To Mrs. May Bertrand who attended her first convention for the F.U.A. in 1917 and has been a regular delegate throughout the years. attending again this past year. Her help with Junior and all F.W.U.A. projects has been invaluable.

To two of our beloved old timers Mrs. Myrtle Monner and Mrs. Laura Sutherland who have attended all F.W.U.A. affairs and numerous conventions and rallys and who still help actively in all projects.

To Mrs. Thora Scott and Mrs. Margarite Godkin who have planned our prize winning floats for the local parade each year and to all the members who worked on them.

To all our members who have helped cater for our organization and have supported our numerous projects and activities through the years.

Mrs. Bette Papp
County of Vulcan
F.W.U.A. Director



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